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*March 84*Chronology of Recent Events in Korea

- 31 August 1983: Deng discusses the idea of a Korean confederation and US troop withdrawal with Anna Chennault.
- 28 September 1983: Deng discusses confederation idea with Secretary Weinberger, noting that "the DPRK...(has) put forward a proposal--an independent Korea in the form of a confederation. The Chinese government endorses this proposal...it is my hope that China and the United States can do something to promote peaceful reunification in Korea."
- 29 September 1983: Hu Yaobang suggests to a visiting Japanese Socialist Party delegation that measures to reduce tensions in Korea may be in the offing.
- 30 September 1983: US announces new policy on contacts with North Korean diplomats and reiterates willingness to hold three-way or four-way talks on Korea.
- 8 October 1983: Chinese Foreign Ministry says it received a North Korean proposal for talks
- 9 October 1983: Bombing in Rangoon.
- 10 October 1983: TASS reports the bombing in a radio broadcast in Korean that accuses South Korea of using the incident to aggravate tensions on the peninsula.

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- 13 October 1983: Red Star and Pravda replay North Korean account of the Rangoon bombing.
- 6 November 1983: China reports both Burma's announcement blaming the North Koreans for the bombing and P'yongyang's official denial of the charges. Moscow reports only the North's denial.
- 7 November 1983: US retracts new policy on contacts with North Korean officials in aftermath of Rangoon bombing.
- 10 November 1983: Soviet press comments on the Burmese breaking relations with North Korea. Soviet reporting on the bombing drops off and rhetoric shifts to blasting "Team Spirit 84" and the President's trip to Seoul.

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- 24 November 1983: Hu Yaobang, in remarks publicized by Xinhua, implicitly criticizes the North Korean bombing in Rangoon by stressing China's opposition to all actions likely to aggravate tension in Korea "no matter where they are from."
- 24 November 1983: Hu Yaobang in Tokyo tells Nakasone that "China approves of an independent and peaceful reunification of Korea in the form of a confederation. A confederation is good in that one cannot swallow the other."
- 6 December 1983: China conveys a second North Korean proposal for talks to the US Embassy in Beijing. The proposal states that "the DPRK would like to hold talks with the United States on the Korean issue without any conditions, which means that we agree to the participation of South Korean authorities...."
- 2 January 1984: US and South Korea respond to the North Korean offer of 6 December by proposing two-way talks (North-South) or four-way talks (North-South - PRC - US).
- 7 January 1984: North Korean offer of 6 December leaked in South Korean media.
- 10 January 1984: North Korea publicizes its 6 December proposal for three-way talks; China publicly endorses the proposal.
- 11 January 1984: North Korea makes public a 10 January letter to "the Seoul Authorities" that says in part "...problems must be solved with the United States first of all. This is because the United States is not only a signatory to the Korean Armistice Agreement, but also has its troops stationed in South Korea and holds all the prerogative of military supreme command. ...We consider that the Seoul Authorities, another party directly involved in the tensions created in our country, may participate on an equal footing in the talks between us and the United States...the tripartite talks may take up the question of signing a peace agreement, which would replace the Armistice Agreement between us and the United States...the peace agreement between us and the United States, in our opinion, may include mainly the problem of withdrawing the US troops and military equipment, including nuclear weapons, and the problem of conditions guaranteeing a durable peace and the declaration of nonaggression between North and South...After a guarantee is provided...a dialogue may be opened between North and South for a discussion of the reunification question."

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- 14 January 1984: Moscow Pravda, Commentator's Column, states that North Korea "may envisage tripartite talks involving the DPRK, the United States, and South Korea that are to center on the question of replacing the armistice with a peace agreement and on the withdrawal of US troops...(after these talks succeed) it might then be possible for the DPRK and South Korea to hold talks on the basis of previously agreed principles...."
- 20 January 1984: Moscow Izvestiya says that "the only way to achieve peace in and the peaceful reunification of Korea is constructive dialogue...to develop this, as a North Korean report on the subject stresses, the DPRK proposes holding trilateral talks involving the DPRK, the United States, and South Korea. The talks must focus on the question of replacing the armistice with a peace agreement and the withdrawal of US forces from South Korea...."
- 3 February 1984: TASS news analyst Biryukov writes from Moscow that "Getting together at the negotiating table, the three parties concerned--the (DPRK), the USA and South Korea--must work out measures that would reliably prevent the Korean Peninsula from becoming a new potential source of world war...so it would seem that the US administration, which periodically issues proposals to begin a "diplomatic dialogue" regarding the situation on the Korean Peninsula, should have also reacted to that initiative...."
- 3 February 1984: North Korean English language broadcast alleges that "a meeting denouncing the Rangoon bomb blast caused by the Chon Tu-hwan puppet clique was held at a People's Militia training center...the Chon Tu-hwan group is now resorting to dastardly intrigues to shift the responsibility for the Rangoon explosion onto us...."
- 9 February 1984: Chinese Premier Zhao at a press conference in Beijing says that "China has not thought about participation in the talks and the DPRK has not suggested our participation."
- 9 February 1984: NCNA quotes Zhao as telling Australian Prime Minister Hawke: "China supports the proposition of President Kim Il-song for establishing a democratic confederal republic of Koryo...China does not recognize the South Korean regime nor approve of the project of cross-recognition...."
- 15 February 1984: South Korean Prime Minister replies to North Korean letter of 11 January, stating that North Korea "should take convincing actions regarding the Burmese incident...(and accept) a meeting between the highest authorities of North and South Korea...as North-South dialogue proceeds smoothly, we could foster an international environment favorable to the establishment of a permanent peace on the Korean Peninsula and unification of the divided country by

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holding talks in which those countries directly or indirectly responsible for the division of the Korean Peninsula and the Korean War could participate together...."

22 February 1984: Deng Xiaoping tells Brzezinski and others from Georgetown Center that "in order to have stability, Kim Il-song's proposal for confederation is good. I have been thinking for many years that the idea of confederation may be a good thing for China. Our policies toward Taiwan are reasonable. There are two different systems, capitalist and socialist, but there could be one China with two systems. In the case of Hong Kong, also, there could be one China and two systems, so that altogether in China there could be three systems, with those in Taiwan and Hong Kong different. This is a good format also for Korea, to avoid a slide into war to settle that problem...."

27 February 1984: An official of the North Korean representation to the Military Armistice Commission proposes talks to reduce tensions with his US counterpart. South Korea is to be excluded.

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